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Chgo. Tribune

PRICE FIVE CENTS

AT THE FRONT.

**Important Battles Fought
Near Zewin, Asia
Minor.**

**In Which the Russians Admit
that They Were Out-
numbered.**

**The Turks Still Claim a De-
cisive Victory at He-**

George Sully Kidnapped by Shells
from the Turkish Batteries.

A Heavy Engagement Said to Be
in Progress Near Sistova.

Russian Vessels in New York Trans-
ferred to American Merchants.

ARMENIA.
THE FIGHTING ABOUT ERZIN.
[By Cable to The Chicago Tribune.]
LONDON OFFICE OF THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE.
SALISBURY STREET, W. C. June 30.—The

aggregations which have taken place at and about Zewin, the headquarters of the Turkish centre in Asia Minor, since the 29th inst., are evidently of great importance, far greater than those at Delibaba and Zeidran, fought by the Turkish right. The Turkish position there is one of great natural strength. It is situated on a plateau west of Zewin, and about 2,000 feet above the Chanaus, from which the ground rises gradually for about a mile, after which the ascent

IS MORE DIFFICULT,

and in many parts almost scarped. The plateau extends about two miles, with a knoll some 150 feet high in the centre. The plateau is at the junction of three roads

from Kars, and is about equivalent from Delibaba on the right Turkish line of defense, and Oliti on the left line. The entire Turkish force on Mountchar Pasha consists, according to the last accounts, of seventy-nine battalions, 5,000 cavalry, sixty field and forty-two mountain guns.

ENGLAND'S POLICY.

MINISTRY DESIRES THIS WEDNESDAY TO SUPPORT IT.

[By Cable to The Chicago Tribune.]

LONDON OFFICE OF THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE,
HALLSBURY STREET, W. C., JUNE 30.—The *Examiner*, which is usually well informed, writes to-day, that "it was expected that a special vote of credit in addition to the reg-

army and navy estimates would be asked for by the Government on Monday. No such request was then made, but it is to the highest degree likely that it will be made before Parliament shall be prorogued. We apprehend that Parliament will show the utmost and most unanimous readiness to place sufficient funds at the disposal of the Government, if it only be made clear that they are agreed upon a wise and definite policy, and have a distinct conception of what it is that British interests require."

THE RUSSIAN INVASION.
BOMBARDMENT ALONG THE DANUBE.
LONDON, June 30.—Telegrams from various

up on the Danube give the particulars of ghastly bombardments along this river.

STRECHUK.

At Eustichuk, the German Casemate was destroyed by twenty-four shells, the French by twenty, and the Austrian Casemate was ridiculed. The military hospital in the Jews' quarter received seventy-two shells. They fall everywhere, but no spot can be considered safe.

SURKOV.

Up to Wednesday the Turks had thrown 3,000 shells into Glugorvo. However, though the streets are piled up and houses broken through, more than one house in twenty or thirty is seriously injured.

SHARP-SHOVING.

At Oltenitz, at Ebnarowicz, of the Eleventh Infantry Division, was shot through the shoulder by a Turkish sharpshooter from the other side of the Danube.

SESTOVA.

dispatch from Vienna, dated last night, says: "It is persistently announced here that battle has been raging today between Russians."

A DUMKY FLEET.

An Ottomita dispatch, dated Wednesday, says: "This morning's operations have been successful. An attempt was made to unmask Turkish batteries by launching a fleet of boats loaded with dummy soldiers. When the boats reached the Turkish batteries they fired on a thousand rifles and many cannon upon the unsuspecting Russian warships."

RUSSIAN HEADQUARTERS.

DOUBROVNI, June 30.—"The Czar has taken up quarters at a farm-house called the Drac, near Turin-Magari. The headquarters of the Emperor and Duke Nicholas have been transferred to SOTA."

ASIA MINOR.

BATTLE AT SARON.

THE TORG. June 30.—A letter from Erzeroum says the Torgia collected a large sum for the defense of the city and will now return into the whole district. The streets of the town itself reach no violence and disorders. The American consulates have taken shelter. They could not make during the day and sleep in some secluded place at night.

THE KURDS.—A report of a receipt of outrages plundering by Kurds throughout Armenia, as the authorities are unable or unwilling prevent.

THE FIGHTING AT ERZURUM.

London, June 30.—A Russian official dispatch states: "After the Russians were driven from foremost positions near Zewin, on the 28th

The Tribune.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

BY MAIL—IN ADVANCE—POSTAGE PREPAID.

SIX MONTHS, \$1.00.

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not oppose such an occupation, but that it would be gratified at such a result, of course because it would be a blow at the material interests of France. The only power which has any interest in the future of the canal are those on the Mediterranean, not one of which can successfully resist its English occupation.

Secretary Sherman's withdrawal of the Government patronage from the New York Bank-Note Company evokes a vigorous attack from that corporation. It claims virtually to be dependent upon the national printing, and hints that 500 skilled workmen will be turned out of employment, which would be a grave catastrophe if they should all turn out. The charge against the company is that it did some of the surface-printing from electrolytes instead of steel-faced type; and this disobedience of orders cost it its contract.

It seems to be necessary to call Mr. Elwell's attention to the law as it is. In his opinion on the constitutionality of the ordinance regulating the sale of fireworks he recommends the passage of an ordinance prohibiting the use, and not restricting the sale, of rockets and crackers, forgetting, or overlooking apparently, the provisions already in the ordinance.

No quibbles, crackers, serpents, or other fireworks containing powder or other combustible or explosive material shall be kept or stored within the limits of the city of Chicago, except the same be kept or stored in a fire-proof vault.

Any person, firm, or corporation violating the provisions of this chapter shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000 for each offense, and a penalty for every twenty-four hours that said rockets, crackers, or other fireworks containing the aforesaid material shall be kept or stored after the first conviction for violation of this chapter.

Sec. 15 of Chap. 28 of the Revised Ordinances of Chicago, provides as follows:

No person shall fire or discharge any cannon, gun, howitzer, piece, or firearm of any description, or fire, explode, or set off any squib, cracker, or other thing containing powder or other combustible or explosive material, without permission from the Common Council, or written permission from the Mayor, which permission shall limit the time of such firing, and shall be subject to be revoked by the Mayor or Common Council at any time after it has been granted. Any violation hereof shall subject the party to a fine of not less than two dollars nor exceeding ten dollars.

It only remains for the police to rigidly enforce these enactments, and the people of Chicago are inclined to see that such enforcement is rigid. This sentiment is expressed by the burning patriotism of the small boy who is commendable, until it puts the punk in his fist and starts him on his inflammable demonstration of his love for his country.

The archer will recover from his disappointment in a day or two, if deprived of an opportunity to shoot a few millions' worth of property, but the citizens of Chicago know too well how long it takes to recuperate from the disastrous effects of a general conflagration.

THE LESSON OF THE DAY.

The report from Hartford, Conn., is to the effect that there is more or less trouble in the affairs of the Charter Oak Life Insurance Company. Fortunately, there is no intimation of any delinquency or misappropriation of the funds. The extent of the allegation is that the securities in which the assets of the company are invested have, like all other investments, been undergoing a serious shrinkage; and this circumstance, which is probably true, is more or less exaggerated by a quarrel between rival factions among the managers. There is another warning and instructive lesson furnished by this confusion in the affairs of this life insurance company which cannot be too earnestly taken home by all other corporations and individuals. The financial condition of this company, on the 1st of January last, was stated as follows:

For premiums received	\$2,330,924
For interest and rents	725,901
Total receipts	\$3,056,825
Death claims, endowments, etc.	2,215,803
Assets commissions	294,770
Office expenses, salaries, fees, etc.	303,285
Refunded premiums	20,870
Total expenses	\$2,834,728
Assets, Jan. 1, 1877	\$684,723
Real estate owned in New York	\$328,780
Loans secured by bond and mortgage	5,231,971
Loans otherwise secured	173,980
Bonds and stocks owned	294,815
Cash on hand and in bank	2,518,019
Interest and rents due and accrued	92,175
Due from agents	11,725
Total assets	\$13,633,723
Reserve reserve—American experience table and 4 per cent interest	12,197,029
Unpaid claims	225,145
All other liabilities	20,548
Total liabilities	\$12,442,722
Surplus	\$1,191,001

The principal item of the liabilities of the company is that fund, which, according to the principles and practice of life insurance, is necessary to protect the aggregate of the insurance taken by the company. The amount is put down at \$12,197,029. This sum is required, and it must produce a net income of 4 per cent on the average time during which they will remain in the company.

This statement asserts that the company has assets equal to \$13,633,723, which is in excess of the liabilities the sum of \$1,191,001. On the face of this figures the showing is not only a favorable, but a promising one. The investigators and examiners do not find any frauds in the assets; the loans, mortgages, bonds, and real estate all exist as stated; but they find that there is a large shrinkage in the value of these assets. This shrinkage of value is put down at something over \$2,000,000. One item of loss is a loan of \$450,000 to B. F. ALLEN and his partners, which is nominally covered by a mortgage; how much this mortgage is worth, if anything, is one of the questions to be determined. If there are any others of this class, or what may be called bad or desperate debt, none has been mentioned. The other shrinkages are alleged to have taken place in the matter of real estate.

The company owns real estate, and has built its own office. It also owns real estate which it had to purchase or take for loans made thereon. This real estate is in New York, Hartford, St. Louis, Chicago, Cincinnati, and various other cities in the West and the East. As a rule, these loans were made before the panic, and when prices were inflated; and, as a general thing, the loans were made at the rate of 50 cents on the dollar of the real value of the property. Whether this real estate is covered, and the assets of the company of money invested therein, and for which the company took the property, or is counted at the par valuation made at the time of the loan, we do not know. But a hostile and minority faction of the managers of the company have reported that their real estate in these large cities is not at this time worth what it was represented to be on the 1st of January, 1877. Nor is it made public by what rule this real estate has been

valued. If valued at what it could be sold for now at a forced sale or if thrown on the market in large quantities and sold en masse, the difference between the actual proceeds of a sale and any valuation made within the last three years would be a wide one. In Chicago—and we suppose the same thing prevails elsewhere—it is not so much a decline in the value of improved real estate as the inability to sell at any price. Those who have money prefer to hold it idle and unproductive to any investment of it until the general business of the country has become settled. No person holding real estate in this city, while admitting its present unproductiveness and the general prostration of the market, has any question that property will resume, substantially, the market value it had before the general crash.

This statement furnishes, however, some other particulars which are worth considering. The receipts of the company during 1876, from each premium and each loan, for the benefit of the agencies or forwarded by mail, were \$2,330,924. The cost of operating was \$684,728, or over 27 per cent. This company is one of those whose salary-list as compared with others has been quite moderate; yet for every dollar it collected of the policyholders it paid out 27 cents for salaries and expenses. Its death losses hardly equalled its salary and expense list. Though the payments of losses by death in the limit of the policy are not made in the limit of the policy, except the same be kept or stored in a fire-proof vault. Any person, firm, or corporation violating the provisions of this chapter shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000 for each offense, and a penalty for every twenty-four hours that said rockets, crackers, or other fireworks containing the aforesaid material shall be kept or stored after the first conviction for violation of this chapter.

Without any special knowledge as to this company, we assume that it is true of it, as it is true of all other companies and corporations, public and private, and equally true of individuals, that while the shrinkage of the value of all investments and of all property is notorious, the falling off of rents, incomes, and profits, and the lessening of the cash means of all persons and corporations are going on, and the last and most difficult thing for men and corporations to do is to reduce their own expenses. In cases where the expenditure is of other people's money, suggestions that expenditures be reduced, salaries cut down, and the like, are not only not received, but are resented as suggestions to rob and plunder men of vested rights. Thus expenditures are maintained at one end, and if the cash be in hand, increased, while the work is at work in the treasury eating the bonds and destroying the assets; and this thing goes on until the investigation shows that nothing is left. How many corporations are there which, as their assets fall, are not only not reduced, but are increased, and this thing goes on until the investigation shows that nothing is left. How many corporations are there which, as their assets fall, are not only not reduced, but are increased, and this thing goes on until the investigation shows that nothing is left.

On the other hand, it is to be said that there has been for a long time reports of a clique inside the Board and outside of it, who have made no secret of their intention to oust Mr. PICKARD from his place; that this determination was made in Mr. CURRY's time, and that he was privy to it, and, if he makes no open boast that he should be driven out, that a plan was made to oust Mr. CURRY, and that a plan was imported to oust Mr. PICKARD from his place; and that the class of this community now existing in Mr. PICKARD's resignation is not the class which has the best interests of the schools at heart. Under these circumstances, our citizens cannot but regard the situation of the schools with apprehension; and if it shall eventually that the Board places Mr. DORT in Mr. PICKARD's position, will not the unpleasant suspicions so long asked, and result in an emphatic protest. It is to be regretted in this connection that the adherents of Mr. DORT are composed very largely of those who have no interest in education at any time, and of those who have withdrawn their children from the schools. If the elevation of Mr. DORT would result in returning these children to the schools, there might be some compensation for the violent sacrifice the friends of education are called upon to make; but, as there is no such prospect, they are simply called upon to make this sacrifice of an able and experienced educator without any compensation. In this contingency, the people of Chicago will look to Mayor HARRIS and demand of him that no detriment or prejudice shall come to the schools through the plotting of cliques.

THE NEW VAGRANT LAW.

The new law defining vagrancy and providing for its more summary treatment passed at the recent session of the Legislature goes into effect to-morrow. It is not unlike the Professional Criminals act passed by the New York Legislature some years since, and under the operation of which the police of New York City are said to be able to repress crime more effectively than ever before. For years past, whenever there has been a complaint that well-known thieves were prowling about the streets of Chicago, the police have answered that they were powerless under the law to arrest them, or drive them out of town. It is true that, under the old law, an arrest on the charge of vagrancy generally resulted in giving the vagrant the freedom of the city. When brought before a Police-Justice, the first step was to take a change of venue to a Civil Justice; this was followed by trial which frequently has been in the way of simply being let off, or, if not, a fine of \$10 or \$20, which the vagrant took an appeal, gave straw bail, and thereafter was free from arrest pending the case in the Criminal Court. It is hoped that the new law, if properly construed by the Courts, will prevent the easy evasion of the charge of vagrancy under the old law.

The vagrant subject to arrest under the new law is a Proven character, and the legal definition is to be broad enough to cover pretty much all varieties of the dangerous and vicious. Any one who is idle or disolute; any one who goes about begging; any one indulging in unlawful games; confederate men; common night-walkers; offenders against public decency in speech or behavior; persons who do not support themselves or their families; those who take lodgings in the open air, or who are found in the streets, and give no account of themselves, all persons who are convicted to be thieves, burglars, or pickpockets, either by their own confession or otherwise, or by having been convicted of larceny, burglary, or other crime punishable by imprisonment, and who are found loitering about any public place or in a crowded thoroughfare, all these are declared to be vagrants. The most important classification is that mentioned last, and includes the professional criminals known to the police, who are convicted of crimes, and who are found in the streets, and give no account of themselves, all persons who are convicted to be thieves, burglars, or pickpockets, either by their own confession or otherwise, or by having been convicted of larceny, burglary, or other crime punishable by imprisonment, and who are found loitering about any public place or in a crowded thoroughfare, all these are declared to be vagrants.

The new law further provides that these professional thieves, confidence-men, bunco-bustlers, pickpockets, etc., may be arrested "on sight and without warrant when they are personally known to the police, and the law further makes it the duty of the police to arrest them. They may also be pointed out to the police by any one knowing them to be professional criminals, and then arrested on a warrant. Of course, it is the business of the police to be familiar with the faces and names of the criminals, as well as the names of the places where they are known to be, and the law makes it the duty of the police to be familiar with the faces and names of the criminals, as well as the names of the places where they are known to be, and the law makes it the duty of the police to be familiar with the faces and names of the criminals, as well as the names of the places where they are known to be.

The point in regard to the State law is not new, and Messrs. DENT & BLACK, in the opinion they gave the ladies on the subject, were right only in so far as the law is on the whole, and, if enforced, must be by means of indictments, trials, and the usual process of enforcing State laws. There is nothing in the State law which requires or permits the city authorities to maintain a police force and levy taxes for the enforcement of any State law; but the Woman's Christian Temperance Union has now the same right that it would have if there were a city ordinance to "send out" a vagrant, or to keep the Grand Jury get indictments against those who keep their saloons open on Sunday, and bring them to trial. But conviction under the State law will be difficult to secure; it has often been tried and failed. The law simply provides that "whoever keeps open a saloon, or place where liquor is sold or given away, upon the first day of which, commonly called Sunday, shall be fined not exceeding \$500." This law comes down on the books from about half a century ago, and was passed originally during the apprenticeship system in this State, when the saloons and tippling-houses were a moral nuisance, and especially threatened the youths who enjoyed a holiday from their apprenticeship on Sunday. It served a good purpose in its day; but it is doubtful whether Courts and Juries would now construe it to

include only saloons under the license and regulation of the State authorities. In any case, there is an authority, direct or indirect, for employing the city police as spies, informers, and witnesses to enforce this law.

If the Woman's Christian Temperance Union really desire to accomplish something practical in behalf of temperance (and we do not question the sincerity of their motives), they will abandon their present effort to revive the Sunday-brawl strife, which will only lead to greater intemperance if it shall succeed, and it will copy a field where women's presence and influence may yet achieve wonders. We commend the Municipal movement in Ohio to their consideration, where hundreds of pledge-signers have been secured in every city and town in the State by means of personal application and persuasion. This movement is similar in nature to the Washingtonian and Father Mathew movements, which started about forty years ago, and achieved the most successful results. Those movements were originally based upon personal efforts of reform, upon good example, upon persuasion and argument, upon Christian influences and kind, sympathetic aid extended to all who made an effort to abandon the excessive use of alcoholic liquors. While the temperance reformers kept within these limits, they swept the country, and undoubtedly saved many an old drunkard, and kept thousands of young men from becoming dissipated. It was not until the time when the use of whiskey was almost universal throughout the country; a barrel of new whiskey was almost as much a matter of course in every farmer's house as a barrel of vinegar or a barrel of oil. Whiskey was the drink. Wine was a rare luxury, and beer was almost unknown. In this condition of things, an abstinence movement was impossible, so long as personal persuasion and Christian influences were the means to the end. But, after while, these reformers wearied in well-doing, and sought to shift the actual labor from themselves to the constabulary—to accomplish by force what they had previously accomplished by moral suasion. Henceforth they encountered the opposition of temperate drinkers who had previously assisted them, and relied upon Hopping Constables to drive home inebriated men to their homes. From that time till now, whenever force has been applied where persuasion should have ruled, there has been no good result, but only political strife and bad feeling.

The ladies of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union are only repeating the mistake that has been made spasmodically over and over again during the last twenty-five years. We do not think they will be able to influence the City Council in this regard, and the ladies of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union are only repeating the mistake that has been made spasmodically over and over again during the last twenty-five years. We do not think they will be able to influence the City Council in this regard, and the ladies of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union are only repeating the mistake that has been made spasmodically over and over again during the last twenty-five years. We do not think they will be able to influence the City Council in this regard, and the ladies of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union are only repeating the mistake that has been made spasmodically over and over again during the last twenty-five years. 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